Advancing Strategies for Low Income Communities

44% of U.S. households are low income. The average energy burden for low income households is over 8%—3 times as high as for non-low-income households.\(^1\)

The Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA), launched in May 2016, aims to lower energy bills in low income communities through a voluntary partnership with state and local governments, community agencies, nonprofits, and utilities to demonstrate a wide range of locally designed energy efficiency and distributed renewable energy solutions. CELICA helps partners develop programs using proven and promising strategies that make cost-saving technologies accessible to underserved communities. Over 35 organizations (partner map on next page) joined CELICA and are working to address barriers to achieving their goals.

Low Income Program Planning Tools

**Low-income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool** – Provides interactive state, county, and city level worksheets with graphs and data including housing characteristics, energy expenditures, and energy burden by income level.

**Baseline Assessment Guide** – A series of questions to identify needs and gaps in energy efficiency, renewables, or other energy assistance programs for low income communities.

**Low-Income Energy Federal Library** – A compilation of resources and tools across 8 federal agencies focused on serving low-to-moderate income communities.
Increasing Access to Energy Efficiency in Remote Communities

The Remote Alaskan Communities Energy Efficiency Competition (RACEE) is a one-time initiative launched in 2015 to empower remote Alaskan communities to develop reliable, affordable energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. The $4 million multi-year initiative concludes in 2020. RACEE is structured to address challenges posed by Alaska’s unique energy profile. Rural Alaskans pay 60% more than the U.S. average and face extremely cold climate conditions much of the year. Energy-saving technologies can make a significant economic impact and free up household budgets for food, medicine, and other necessities.

1 U.S. Census Bureau 2011-2015 average

For more information, visit: energy.gov/eere/wipo
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